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ASSISTANCE TECHNIQUE NATIONALE (ATN)

First Semester Report
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**Abt Associates Incorporated, Helen Keller International, IntraHealth International,
Johns Hopkins University/ Center for Communications for Population, IBEX, SSDS**

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Acronyms

ACT	Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy
AFP	Acute Flaccid Paralysis
ANC	Antenatal Care
ATN	National Technical Assistance Project
CERDI	Center for International Development Studies
CNI	National Center for Immunization (Immunization section)
CNIECS	Center for the Information, Education, and Communication for Health
CCIA	Inter Agency Coordination Committee
CDD	Control of the Diarrheal Disease
CLIC	Community Learning and Information Center
cMYP	Comprehensive Multi-year Plan for Immunization
CPN	Prenatal Consultation
CPS	Planning Division of the Ministry of Health
CREDOS	Center for Research and Documentation for Child Health
CRDI	Study Center for International Development
CROCEP	Regional planning process in support of PRODESS
CSCOM	Community Health Center
DNS	National Direction of Health
DN	Division of Nutrition
DSR	Division of Reproductive Health
DSSAN	Nutrition Monitoring Unit of the CPS
DPM	Direction of Pharmacy and Medicines
EDS	Demographic and Health Survey
ENA	Essential Nutrition Actions
FNUAP	UN Fund for Population
GOM	Government of Mali
HKI	Helen Keller International
HPP	Post-Partum Hemorrhage
IPC / FP	Interpersonal Counseling / Family Planning Technology
INRSP	National Institute of Public Health Research
IPT	Intermittent Preventive Treatment of malaria
KC	Keneya Ciwara
MAC	Malaria Action Coalition
MHO	Mutuelle Health Organization
MI	Micronutrient Initiative
MII	Insecticide Treated Nets
MOH	Ministry of Health
MSA	Ministry of Social Affairs
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
ORS	Oral Rehydration Salts
ORT	Oral Rehydration Therapy
PRODESS	Program for the Development of Health and Social Services
PNLP	National Malaria Control Program
POPPHI	Prevention of Postpartum Hemorrhage Initiative
PPH	Postpartum hemorrhaging
PPM	Malian People's Pharmacy
PSNAN	National Strategic Plan for Nutrition
PEV	Expanded Program for Immunizations
PCIME	Integrated Management of Child Illness
PF	Family Planning
PNP	Policy Norms and Procedures

RED	Reach Every District (ACD)
SIS	Health Information System
SIAN	National Nutrition Weeks
SP	Sulfadoxine-Pyrimethamine
SRO	Oral Rehydration Salts
TPI	Intermittent Preventive Treatment of Malaria
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
URTEL	Malian Radio and Television Union
VAS	Vitamin A supplementation
VAT	Anti-tetanus Vaccine
WHO	World Health Organization

1 Introduction

The present report summarizes the key technical activities of the first semester of fiscal year 2007 (October 2006 – March 2007), the fourth year of activity of the USAID Health Program / National Technical Assistance (ATN) project. This fiscal year is referred to in the contract as Option Year 1.

ATN's activities continue to be the result of a high level of collaboration with the Ministry of the Health (MOH) and the high impact service divisions. Through a process of ongoing consultation with USAID Mali's Health team and a productive collaboration with the Ministry of the Health and other partners, ATN is able to work towards achieving USAID's strategic objective (SO 6) in health: Increased Use of High Impact Services, within the framework of PRODESS II.

During a workshop held in early FY07 ATN revised its strategy to further emphasize the provision of technical assistance at the policy level. ATN will focus on high impact health service policy strengthening, scale up, national level training of trainers, and dissemination.

Close collaboration with the MOH has been particularly of note this semester as ATN was solicited to participate in the development of major policy documents for high impact services. These documents include: Policies, Norms, and Procedures for Nutrition, the MOH's Child Survival Strategy (which is an adaptation of the African Union endorsed strategy), the comprehensive Multi-Year Plan for vaccination, the National Health Accounts, the Accelerated Plan for the implementation of the National Malaria strategy, and several other key policy documents.

This report presents the two major project components: high impact services and cross-cutting interventions. The report summarizes activities carried out during this period; reviews lessons learned and obstacles encountered, and outlines planned activities for the second semester of FY 2007.

The following is a brief summary of the project's key achievements for the first semester of FY 2007.

2 Summary of First Semester FY 2007 Activities and Achievements

Nutrition:

- **Scale up of integration of deworming into National Nutrition Week (SIAN):** ATN provided technical and financial assistance in the advocacy, planning, coordination and organization of the SIAN for December 2006. However this SIAN was noted for the association of the first ever scaled up distribution of deworming capsules with vitamin A. This decision was made by the MOH after the successful pilot activity carried out in the Koulikoro region in May 2006. Over 2.3 million children received vitamin A and over 2.1 million received albendazole capsules.

Vaccination:

- **Mid-term evaluation of Reach Every District (RED):** After 18 months of working with the National Direction of Health and the Immunization section on the implementation of Reach Every District in Niafunke and Goundam

districts, a mid-term review was carried out in a joint visit which included the national, regional, and district level health officials. Results show that since the inception of RED the DPT3 rates in Goundam have increased from 15% in December 2004 to 48% in August 2006; in Niafunke coverage increased from 31% to 61% in the same time period.

- **Comprehensive Multi-Year Plan for vaccination:** ATN staff played a critical technical role in the development and completion of the comprehensive Multi-Year Plan (cMYP) for vaccination which covers 2007-2011. ATN staff participated in two sub-commissions of the cMYP – those addressing vaccination coverage and the institutional and financial aspects of EPI.

Malaria:

- **Plan for the Accelerated Implementation of the Malaria control strategy:** ATN participated actively in the preparation of the Accelerated Plan which was initiated by the DNS. Six technical working groups were established to examine various aspects of the malaria strategy in detail. The discussions leading up to the draft document were critical to developing consensus on the approach to malaria control in a more detailed and focused manner. This process contributed to the partner discussions held with the team for the Presidential Malaria Initiative during their first visit in February 2007.

Control of Diarrheal Diseases:

- **National strategy for the promotion of hand washing in collaboration with the private sector:** ATN Provided technical input to the adoption and validation of a national handwashing strategy for the prevention of disease.

Family Planning and Maternal Health:

- **Training of trainers in the prevention of postpartum hemorrhaging:** ATN conducted in collaboration with the DSR and POPPHI the National Training of Trainers in Active Management of Third Stage Labor (AMTSL) for the prevention of postpartum hemorrhage in February 2007. Twenty-five trainers from all regions except the district of Bamako were trained, as well as from the DSR and the National Training Institute for Health.
- **Family Planning Campaign:** ATN participated in the preparation and provided support to the 2007 Family Planning campaign launched in March. This preparation included meetings to examine the availability of contraceptives such as the IUD kit and other materials with partners and the development of messages around the theme: "Male involvement in Family Planning promotion and acceptance."

Health Reform:

- **National Health Accounts:** the NHA document was presented along with two other studies to the MOH and other partners.

Behavior Change Communication:

- **High Impact Health Services Communication:** The National Reproductive Health Strategy was presented and disseminated. Various communication products for rural radio (messages on SIAN, IPT, and vaccination) along with the radio series *Heremakono* were broadcast in all 59 districts including Bamako.

3 COMPONENT I: High Impact Services

3.1 Nutrition

Accomplishments of the past six months

The following section outlines the activities of the Nutrition component of ATN. These activities were carried out in collaboration with the Division of Nutrition (DN) National Direction of Health (DNS) and other partners.

National Nutrition Week (SIAN) integrated with deworming

As has been the case since December of 2003, ATN this semester took an active role in providing support to the DN for advocacy, resource mobilization, planning, coordination and organization of the SIAN held in December 2006.

However, this SIAN would be different from previous SIANs. In fact it became a landmark event and a significant accomplishment for the MOH as the first ever SIAN to include the integration of the distribution of deworming with vitamin A. As a result albendazole capsules were distributed in all eight regions and the district of Bamako to two target groups: children 12-59 months and women post partum along with vitamin A.

The MOH's decision to scale up the activity was a direct result of the positive experience gained and lessons learned after a May 2006 pilot activity in Koulikoro region (see FY06 second semester report) that was funded by USAID/ATN. Originally scheduled for November 2006, the SIAN was postponed in order to obtain sufficient quantities of albendazole for all the regions.

The Nutrition Division also mobilized significant GOM resources for the SIAN (over \$100,000 US) which was used for the purchase of commodities, logistics, and support to certain regions where there was a funding gap. The MOH has consistently supported the SIAN and is gradually shifting the funding responsibility to the regions to encourage regional ownership and full management of the SIAN.

Results: The Nutrition Division reported that over 90% of the target groups were successfully reached by the December 2006 SIAN. More specifically:

- **2,325,069 million children received vitamin A (90% of children 6-59 months)**
- **2,133,444 million children received deworming tablets (96.8% of children 12-59 months)**
- **63,231 women post partum received vitamin A and deworming tablets (93% of the target group)**

Specific activities that were supported included:

- Resource mobilization for the SIAN (preparing budgets and assisting with advocacy). ATN provided financing of the operational costs of the SIAN in Timbuktu, Gao, and Kidal regions.
- ATN provided support for the development of tracking forms, posters and counseling cards. These were revised after the pilot activity.
- Preparing projections and estimations for Vitamin A and deworming capsule needs.

- Training of 25 regional trainers on the integration of deworming.
- Printing and dispatching tools for data collection to the three Northern regions of Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal.
- Logistical and financial support was provided for the supervision by the national level DN of the SIAN in key regions.
- Support was provided for the compilation and dissemination of the final results in August 2006 of the May round of the SIAN.

An abstract was prepared on the scale up of the SIAN integrated with deworming and submitted to the American Public Health Association meeting to be held in November 2007.



***Children 6-59 months receiving vitamin A and albendazole in the Kati district:
Most of these children would not likely receive preventive services if the
SIAN did not exist!***

Coordination with the Neglected Tropical Disease Initiative

In addition to participating in the NTDI workshop held to introduce and develop the NTDI strategy for Mali, ATN was contacted by the NTDI focal point in order to discuss possible collaboration and the planning and implementation of the SIAN. NTDI believes that the lessons learned in implementation, financing, and monitoring will be valuable to the NTDI activities. ATN played a critical role in introducing the Nutrition Division to the idea of possible collaboration. These discussions will continue as the NTDI becomes more fully operational in FY07-08.

Revision of PNP for Nutrition

- ATN supported the DN in the organization of a technical workshop for the revision of the PNP for Nutrition
- A consultant was recruited to lead the process.
- The workshop was held February 19 to March 2nd. Two documents were produced: Norms and procedures and an Operational Policies document.

Finalization of the protocol for case management of severe malnutrition

- ATN nutrition's advisor participated in a regional workshop for the training of national trainers on malnutrition and the finalization of a national protocol for case management of severe diarrhea held November 8th to the 16th 2006. Participants came from six countries with representatives of HKI, WHO and UNICEF.
- In February, ATN also participated in the development of training modules for the new protocols for the community level.

Other key activities and events

- ATN participated in the development of the Health Sector Plan of the Food and Nutrition Sector strategy.
- ATN's nutrition advisor participated in a francophone workshop to update IMCI directives for child health and case management of child illness – in particular diarrhea and HIV/AIDS. After this meeting ATN continued to participate in the development of national policy on the use of zinc and the new ORS formula in the management of diarrhea. A draft technical note was prepared and ATN provided comments.

Coordination and technical assistance to the Nutrition Division and the DNS

- ATN actively participated in meetings to discuss nutrition aspects of the draft child survival strategy prepared by key DNS staff.

ATN continues to be solicited for participation in planning and technical meetings on topics such as neonatal health (SNL and BASICS), Child Survival (UNICEF – SASDE evaluation), malnutrition (WFP), food fortification (HKI), and various other technical meetings.

Lessons Learned

The SIAN's success in reaching the target group has begun to draw attention from other programs and international organizations. The SIAN remains a strong vehicle for service delivery to a large target group and will help the government reach its MDG goals. However, if too many activities are associated with the SIAN this may lead to its downfall. It could become unmanageable given the existing service capacity in most of Mali. Attention will be given to carefully adhere to the objectives of the SIAN when planning in order to ensure its continued success.

Key activities planned for the next six months

- Technical and financial assistance in the planning and organization of the June 2007 SIAN (financing of three Northern regions).
- Planning assistance to the MOH for the distribution of MII in the June 2007 SIAN
- Preparation of curricula for training of trainers' workshop for the Nutrition PNP and dissemination of the PNP document.
- Participation in IMCI update workshop with a focus on zinc for diarrhea case management.
- Best practices in community nutrition: preparation of documentation with the Nutrition Division.
- Participation in International Micronutrient Forum in Istanbul Turkey in April 2007.

- Coordination with other nutrition partners: UNICEF, MI/projet Sahel, WFP, HKI SAN+, and HKI fortification program.

Conclusion

The SIAN continues to demonstrate how the MOH can efficiently reach the target group of children 6-59 months with child health services through fixed sites (versus door to door strategies). Should the SIAN continue to reach more than 80% of the target group of children 6 to 59 months it will become an effective vehicle for the successful delivery of “population based scheduled activities” which has recently been endorsed as a delivery strategy in WHO and UNICEF’s Child Survival strategy for Africa that is now being adapted by the DNS for Mali.

Unfortunately, the perception continues to be held that the SIAN is costly. It’s not clear what this cost comparison is based on as delivery of routine services has been proven inefficient in reaching children in the 12 to 59 month age group for preventive services. The children who receive vitamin A and albendazole would most likely not receive services because they are beyond vaccination age and are unlikely to attend “preventive surveillance activities” or SPE.

While indeed additional funds are invested in the SIAN, many activities are buttressed by additional funding (vaccination, family planning, malaria and others) in Mali. The Nutrition Division and the DNS are gradually transferring the responsibility of planning to the regions and allowing them to adapt the SIAN to local budgets and conditions which will eventually reduce the overall cost and ultimately make the SIAN a routine activity, regionally funded.

In addition the trend to integrate other child health services, such as deworming and MII distribution will also ultimately result in reducing the overall cost per intervention and the cost per child reached.

The Nutrition Division continues to use the SIAN platform for other nutrition related activities as well including the promotion of exclusive breastfeeding and improved child feeding practices. The WFP has also raised the possibility of using the SIAN as a platform to identify and reach malnourished children for specific nutrition interventions.

3.2 Vaccination

Accomplishments of the past six months

ATN’s vaccination activities during the past six months involved the finalization of the External EPI review, the mid-term review of the RED approach in Niafunke and Goundam, and the development of the Mali’s Comprehensive Multi-year plan for 2007 -2011.

EPI External review report

Following the initial development of the EPI review report in August during a retreat in Segou, the draft document was finalized and validated by the Inter-agency coordinating committee. This document will be instrumental in the completion of the Comprehensive Multi-year plan and in the submission of Mali’s application to the Global Alliance for vaccines and immunization (GAVI) for funding.

Reach Every District mid-term review

- After 18 months of working with the National Direction of Health and the Immunization section on the implementation of Reach Every District in Niafunke and Goundam districts, a mid-term review was carried out in a joint visit which included the national, regional, and district level health officials. Performance contracts were reviewed by sub district officials in both cercles as well as the broadcast schedules of radio messages.
- Also noted in the review was the increased commitment of vaccination partners, and the impact of communication and social mobilization activities.
- ATN is continuing to work on documentation of the RED experience in order to share lessons learned for the roll out and replication of RED in other districts as planned by the MOH with WHO and UNICEF support.

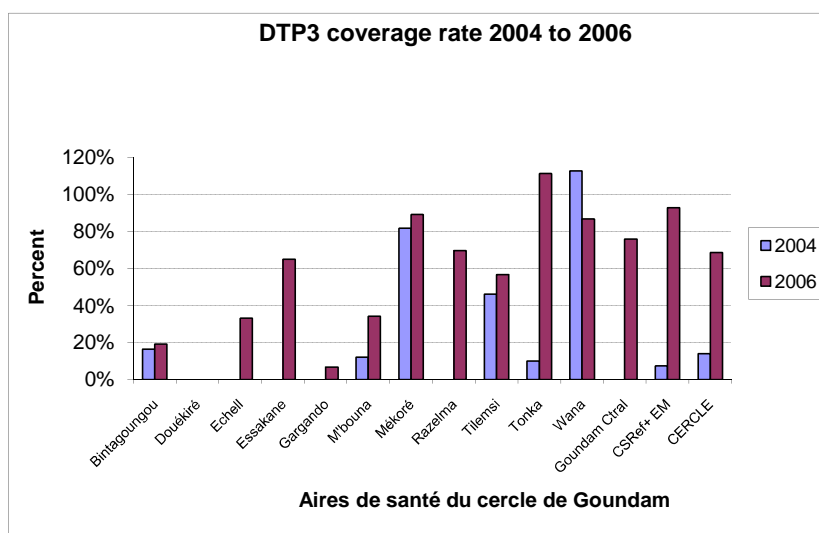
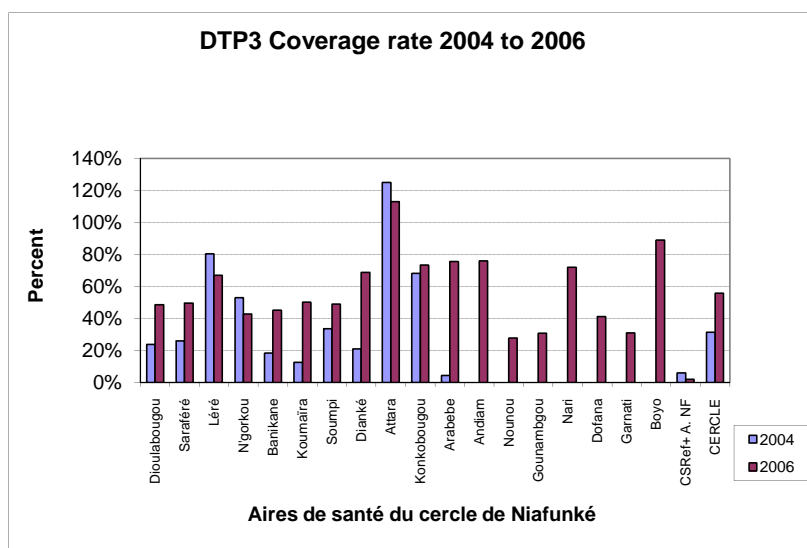
Results:

The mid-term review of RED underscored both improvements in the health system supporting vaccination and improvements among the population in terms of vaccination coverage.

Local health officials declared in public meetings that the RED activity's microplanning exercise helped them understand how to plan to achieve results in immunization.

“As far as vaccination is concerned ATN opened our eyes, before we just vaccinated without knowing where we were going or how we were getting there, now we analyze the results by health sub districts and we have clear objectives” (Chief Health Officer of Niafunke cercle)

As seen in the graphs below comparing results from 2004 and 2006, since the inception of RED the DPT3 rates in Goundam have increased from 15% in December 2004 to 48% in August 2006; in Niafunke coverage increased from 31% to 61% in the same time period.



EPI directors meeting for West Africa

- Every year a critical meeting is held of EPI managers and partners in the West Africa region. ATN has been attending this meeting for the past several years because it provides important technical updates and progress reports on polio eradication, disease surveillance, and innovations for strengthening routine immunization. Recommendations were made to integrate other child health activities with vaccination services as much as possible including

malaria control activities in order to more quickly achieve health program objectives.

Support to the Comprehensive Multi-Year Plan for EPI

- Technical assistance by Yann Derriennic, Abt Associates health economist, was provided to the team preparing the cMYP document. In particular the preparation of the financial and institutional section of the document was supported by a series of meetings with the members from the Financial and Administrative Direction of the MOH to discuss specific tables and compile financial information.

Technical Support to the Immunization Section and the DNS

ATN continues its mandate to provide technical support to the Immunization Section. In this semester ATN's immunization advisor:

- Participated in the technical committee of the CCIA
- Participated in the EPI focal point meeting in Segou in December.
- Participated in Crisis management committee meetings for the organization of a Yellow Fever vaccination campaign in 15 districts.
- ATN provided training support to the vaccinator training held in March 2007 in Sikasso where the training module was also revised.

Lessons Learned

The review of RED activities reinforces the need for a yearly review in all health districts of EPI activities. The review allowed strengths and weaknesses to be analyzed collectively by all partners and for solutions and improvements to be collectively discussed and determined. The idea of the RED approach is that those districts with weak vaccination coverage will benefit from RED. However, advocacy for the replication of RED in other districts will need to be a priority.

Meetings will be organized with the DNS for the reporting out of key information from international meetings such as the EPI managers meeting. Also dissemination meetings for the DNS staff of the EPI review and the cMYP will need to be organized.

Key Activities planned for the next six months

- Participation in the dissemination of the cMYP for EPI and the external review.
- Organization of a workshop for traditional communicators for the support of vaccination activities
- Analysis of preliminary DHS data on vaccination coverage.
- Presentation of the Reach Every District experience at Global Health Council's annual meeting in Washington, DC

Conclusion

One of the recurring recommendations of the international EPI meetings is the integration of other child health activities into EPI to overcome missed opportunities to reach the target group and to more quickly attain the Millennium Development Goals. Aspects of these recommendations are found in the cMYP and the GIVS (Global Immunization Vision Strategy) which directed the cMYP content development. More active discussion of this strategy is needed so that the cMYP can be quickly put into place and carried out.

3.3 Malaria

Accomplishments of the past six months

Plan for the Accelerated Implementation of the Malaria control strategy

- ATN participated actively in the development of the Accelerated implementation plan for malaria control activities which was initiated by the DNS in January 2007 and will be completed next semester. This plan was intended to guide the Presidential Malaria Initiative team in their situational analysis and planning. However this deadline was not met. The discussions leading up to the draft document were nevertheless critical to developing consensus on the approach to malaria control in a more detailed and focused manner. The process also allowed key implementation issues to be highlighted for further discussion such as how logistics support would be provided for free CTA and MII.

Presidential Malaria Initiative

- ATN participated in malaria partners meetings which provided input to the situational analysis prepared by the PMI team. In addition ATN responded to requests from the PMI team for information on how Mali's health system functions.

Technical Support to the PNLP and the DNS

- Participation with the PNLP in a supervision visit to examine monitoring tools and the implementation of free net distribution in the district of Dioila.

Key activities for the next six months

- Participation in the PMI planning visit.
- Participation in the finalization of the Accelerated Plan.
- Participate in technical follow up of operations research on IPT of children under five.
- Provide technical assistance to the PNLP for monitoring of MII distribution and other inputs, such as SP and ACTs at the operational level.
- Preparation of community health worker cards with Keneya Ciwara to support the introduction of ACTs in malaria case management.

Conclusion

One issue which surfaced as a significant consideration during the discussion of the Accelerated Plan was the provision of free drugs (ACT, SP, and TRD) and MII and the effect that free supplies will have on the health system's cost recovery scheme and local health center operations.

The Accelerated Plan will need to be finalized and will need to be complementary to the malaria strategy and policy documents.

3.4 Control of Diarrheal Diseases

- ATN will continue to work with the Hygiene Division of the DNS in the development of a national strategy for handwashing. The national strategy was validated late this semester. ATN has made contacts with the Public - Private Sector Partnership for Handwashing and put the Hygiene Division chief in touch with key World Bank staff from the partnership and in Mali's WB office to discuss potential support to the launch of the handwashing strategy.
- ATN provided input to a technical note for the introduction of zinc and ORS in diarrhea case management. The note will be finalized during the IMCI update workshop.

3.5 Other Child Health Activities

Acute Respiratory Infection

- ATN participated in working groups on ARI case management at the community level which produced two draft research protocols: one for an antibiotic study and operations research for the use of drugs at the community level (by mothers and health workers).

National Direction of Health / Child Survival Strategy document

- ATN has actively provided input to the child survival strategy emphasizing in particular aspects of delivery of health services through population based scheduled activities such as the SIAN (for example) and of emphasizing proven interventions and not those that are the subject of ongoing operations research. In the Child Survival Strategy document neonatal and maternal health have been incorporated.

IMCI update process

- ATN participated in the IMCI update meeting organized by WHO in Cotonou and continued to participate in the follow up process including the development of new policy recommendations for particular child health interventions (ARI, zinc, neonatal health and others).

Neonatal Health

- The ATN COP attended a WHO, UNICEF, and USAID regional meeting in Burkina Faso in October 2006 on integrating neonatal health into child health strategies. The MOH will adapt its guidance on IMCI to incorporate neonatal health and ATN will support the DSR in its efforts to strengthen neonatal policies.
- During the semester ATN staff met with BASICS and USAID Washington staff on the possibility of future collaboration to strengthen neonatal interventions in Mali.

3.6 Maternal Health and Family Planning

Accomplishments of the past six months

The first semester of FY2007 has been an active six months for the MH/FP team which was reinforced by the arrival of the MH/FP team leader, Dr. Gandaho, in October 2006. The semester has been full of activities which support the objective of increasing contraceptive prevalence and contributing to the reduction of maternal,

neonatal, and infant mortality in Mali. These activities were accomplished in collaboration with the Reproductive Health Division of the National Direction for Health and other reproductive health and family planning partners.

In accordance with the USAID/ATN 2006-2007 work plan and in collaboration with the Reproductive Health Division of the DNS, the following activities were implemented during the last six months:

Training

- Participated in the training of skilled birth attendants and the training of matrones in the circles of Gao and Koulikoro for the implementation of the feasibility study for the introduction of Active Management of Third Stage Labor (AMTSL) by matrones.
- Conducted, in collaboration with the DSR, the National Training of Trainers in Active Management of Third Stage Labor (AMTSL) for the prevention of postpartum hemorrhage in February 2007. Twenty-five trainers were trained coming from all regions except the district of Bamako, as well as from the DSR and the National Training Institute for Health. Eight clinical advisors from the district of Bamako were provided with refresher training before the practicum.



Pregnant mothers wait their turn for antenatal care at the Community Health Center Diangounte Camara. Source: Laura Hurley

Supervision

- Financed, through the DSR, supervision of activities in Focused ANC in the regions of Gao, Kidal, Tombouctou, Mopti, Sikasso, Kayes, and the district of Bamako with the intention of evaluating the introduction of Focused ANC in

Mali. Results of the supervision visits will be presented and discussed during a workshop in April 2007.

- Provided financial and logistic support for the supervision of matrones in Koulikoro trained in AMTSL for the matrone feasibility study.

Policies, Norms, and Procedures for Reproductive Health

- Organized a three day workshop in November 2006 with the DSR for the adaptation of PNP job aides for the CSCOM level, specifically targeting matrones. The workshop brought together 22 participants from the DSR, the National Training Institute for Health, the PNLP, the Vaccination Division, Keneya Ciwara, Save the Children, Georgetown University, and ATN. Following the workshop, several working groups were formed to finalize the documents. After being formatted and revised by a graphic designer, draft versions were distributed to the DSR, USAID, and Keneya Ciwara for their feedback. Copies of the job aides were sent to Bougouni to be pretested during a matrone training. Observations from the pretest and from partners will be integrated into the final document which will be finalized by the end of April, 2007.

Family Planning

- Organized a workshop to review the status of the implementation of the Repositioning Family Planning Action Plan in Mali. The workshop brought together the DSR and all collaborating partners working on family planning in Mali.
- Participated in the Family Planning working group meetings beginning in October 2006 to prepare the National Family Planning Campaign for 2007.
- Organized and participated in the launch of the National Family Planning Campaign March 15th, 2007. The theme of the campaign was "Male involvement in the promotion of family planning"
- Financed the mobilization of CAFO women's groups in the district of Bamako for the launch of the National Family Planning Campaign March 15th, 2007.
- Participated in a partners meeting for the repackaging of IUDs and materials necessary for insertion into kits, their availability, accessibility, and management.
- Held several working sessions with the DSR to create an all inclusive list of health workers trained in family planning and interpersonal communication regardless of funding source.



One of the key messages of the family planning campaign encouraged male involvement in discussing birth spacing in the family. (Translation of banner: “Communicating with your wife about birth spacing establishes a climate of trust in your marriage.”)

Gender

- Participated in two workshops on the Constructive Male Engagement in reproductive health activities in Mali held in March 2007 by Health Policy Initiative.

Safe Motherhood/Vision 2010

- Participated in the 5th meeting of the Regional Action and Monitoring Committee of the Vision 2010 Initiative to evaluate the implementation of activities by all countries in the region. The meeting allowed for the exchange of experiences with innovations for the reduction of maternal, neonatal and infant mortality in different countries throughout West and Central Africa.
- Financed the representative of the DSR to attend the Vision 2010 regional meeting to share the experiences of Mali with the introduction of Active Management of Third Stage Labor (AMTSL).

Partnership

- Participated in workshops organized by POPPHI for the launch of the extension of the AMTSL initiative for the prevention of postpartum hemorrhage in Mali. Three workshops were held: one national workshop and two regional workshops in Mopti and Koulikoro.
- Organized meetings for PPH Matrones Technical Advisory Committee to review the pilot study activities, discuss issues and other aspects of the activity.

- Participated in various working meetings with Health Policy Initiative, Georgetown University, and other agencies.
- Participated in the Keneya Ciwara field coordinator meetings and Ciwara d'Or accreditation ceremonies.
- Produced an abstract on Partnerships in Family Planning which was submitted and accepted by the Global Health Council for the Conference in May 2007.
- Submitted an article on Focused ANC for the USAID website.

Lessons Learned

- Timely planning of activities with the DSR on a quarterly basis allowed for a better management of their implementation.
- The increase in the size and capacity of the MH/FP team at ATN contributed to an efficient and effective implementation of activities.

Key activities planned for the next six months

- Finalize the PNP job aides by integrating feedback from partners and the pretest.
- Assist the DSR in organizing regular meetings of the family planning working group.
- Carry out the secondary analysis of the DHS results regarding unmet need for family planning.
- Assist the DSR with the evaluation of the implementation of the strategy providing free c-sections.
- Present the results of the national qualitative study on family planning to the family planning working group (in collaboration with CAREF).
- Continue to follow the communication activities for the National Family Planning Campaign for 2007.
- Support the DSR in organizing the National Safe Motherhood Day on June 8, 2007.
- Assure the Participation of ATN staff and members of the government in international conferences for Maternal Health and Family Planning. (GHC, SAGO, etc.)
- Organize a workshop to review supervision visits for Focused Antenatal Care and to give trainers an orientation on the new curriculum.
- Assist in the review and revision of family planning supervision tools.
- Support the completion of the PPH pilot project to demonstrate the safety and feasibility of Matrones using active management of the third stage of labour (AMSTL)
- Accompany the DSR in the organization of Vision 2010 meetings.
- Coordinate with the DSR promotional activities and elaboration of messages for the IUD.

4 COMPONENT II: Cross-cutting Interventions

4.1 Health Reform

Accomplishments of the past six months

ATN continued its activities in the area of health reform, within the PRODESS framework. In particular, ATN participated in several national workshops, consultative meetings and other activities organized by the Ministry of Health as part of the PRODESS Technical and Monitoring Committee.

Main activities for ATN included:

Support to National Health Accounts:

- ATN provided technical support to the INRSP team and participated in several meetings organized by the Steering committee which were called to take into account recommendations on the draft NHA document.
- ATN participated in the presentation of three studies, including the NHA, the world health study and the burden of malaria.
- ATN provided input to the CPS for the programming of secondary analyses of household spending on health and unmet need in family planning.

Other activities

- ATN participated in the Northern region strategy discussion organized by Keneya Ciwara.

Lessons Learned

A principal concern at this time is the makeup of the CPS team who will develop an institutionalization process for future generations of National Health Accounts in Mali. The structure of the CPS needs to improve in order to meet needs for input and guidance.

Key Activities for the next 6 months

ATN will focus on the following activities:

- Support the implementation of the PRODESS and participate in the development of new workplan activities for health reform and policy development.
- Prepare the institutionalization of the NHAs and apply the secondary DHS analysis with the CPS and DNS to improve the NHAs.

4.2 Mutual Health Organizations

Accomplishments of the last six months

ATN organized the following activities, in collaboration with the CPS of the Ministry of Health.

- Finalization and dissemination of the final report on MHO evaluation in French and English (PHRplus ended September 2006). The report takes into account the recommendations from the dissemination workshop held in 2005. Professional journal articles are being prepared on the results.

- ATN met with the National Director of Social Affairs on the development of technical services to develop a strategic plan for the expansion of MHOs.

Lessons Learned

Implementation of the extension plan is a critical next step in the promotion of mutual health organizations.

Key Activities for the next 6 months:

- Support the Ministry of Social Affairs in the development of a Strategic Plan for MHO development in Mali.

5 Behavior Change Communication (By technical component and cross-cutting)

Accomplishments of the past six months

5.1 Child Health BCC

Vaccination BCC

- ATN continues to provide radio cassettes for the promotion of immunization in local languages. A total of 670 cassettes in five local languages (Bambara, Sonrhail, Tamashek, Peulh, and Soninke) were given to the Immunization Section. These messages were developed in the first year of ATN under the PIC activity for vaccination.
- A consultant was identified and approved who will develop a training module for traditional communicators for vaccination promotion during both routine and campaigns.
- Support was provided to the communication component of the RED mid-term review.

Nutrition BCC

- Technical assistance provided to the development of messages for BCC for the December 2006 SIAN with partners and the production of support materials such as job aids.
- Financing provided for communication activities in the Northern regions during the December SIAN.
- Participation in supervision of communication activities during the December SIAN in Mopti and Gao.
- 1500 information boards on the importance of vitamin A were developed, tested, printed, and handed over to World Education for use in their activity districts.

Control of Diarrheal Diseases BCC

- Technical assistance provided to the development of the Action Plan for the promotion of handwashing to reduce diarrheal diseases: a public – private sector partnership in January 2007

5.2 Malaria BCC

- Support for broadcasting of IPT with SP for pregnant women radio spots continued to rural radios in nine languages in 59 health districts.

5.3 Maternal Health and Family Planning BCC

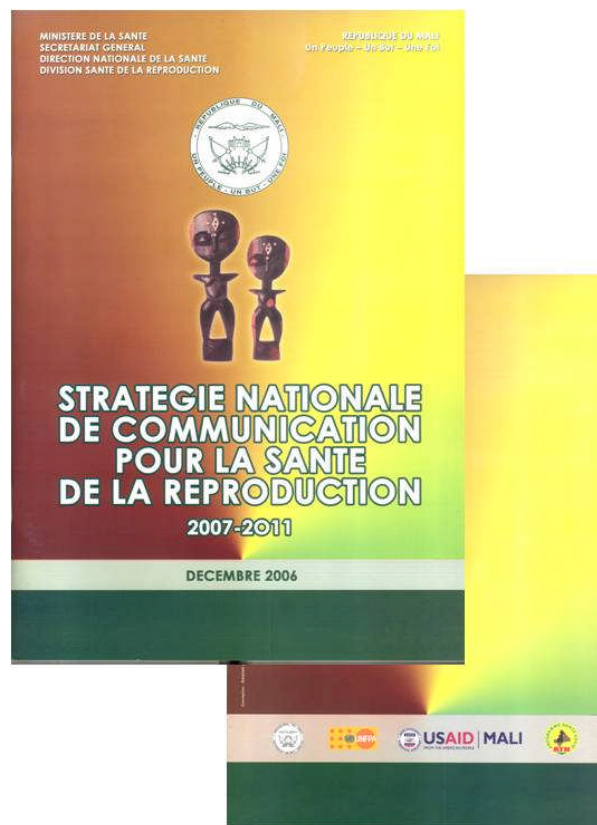
Family Planning BCC

- Family Planning campaign support was provided for the March 2007 launch. Support was also provided for the inclusion of announcements in the media, the development of messages, the translation of campaign messages into other languages, and for the broadcasting of messages in five local radios in Bamako in six languages.
- A qualitative study on the effects of the Family Planning campaign was carried out and completed. The study will be presented in April 2007. An early assessment of the findings indicates that there is still significant resistance to family planning for social and cultural reasons. Women are still more favorable than men to family planning. Management of the side effects of contraception and rumors around contraceptive use need to be addressed more effectively.
- Support was provided to the Family Planning repositioning meeting.

Support to the DNS / DSR in BCC

- National Reproductive Health Communication Strategy was finalized, printed, and publicly presented this semester. 600 copies were printed and distributed to regional health offices and other communication partners.

National Communication Strategy for Reproductive Health



5.4 Cross Cutting BCC activities

- The Message Guide for Health was formatted and will soon be printed once the director of CNIECS signs the preface.
- CD-Rom for CLICS: Identification and initial selection of BCC materials and tools on high impact health services to be included in a CD-rom for the CLICs.
- Radio series on high impact health services- *The Awakening of Hérémakono*: a radio program comprised of fourteen episodes was launched in December by a multi-sectoral working group comprised of the National Direction of Health, CNIECS, Keneya Ciwara, and the National Direction of Social Affairs. 200 sets of 7 tapes were produced and distributed to partners that participated in the development.
- Broadcasting initiated of the radio series by ORTM – one episode will be aired per week for 14 weeks.
- The communication advisor participated in a training on the BEHAVE framework organized by the CORE group in January 2007.

Lessons Learned

Numerous meetings with communication partners were held including CNIECS. The strengthening of this partnership helps facilitate the achievement of a number of the communication related outputs and results.

Some regional partners, such as the regional health offices, were expecting to receive funds for communication activities this past six months, for example for the SIAN and the FP campaign. The reorientation of ATN to focus on the central level was the reason that support was not provided. However, this has left a gap in terms of communication activities.

Key activities for the next six months

- Development of a training module for traditional communicators and its dissemination
- Support the Nutrition Division in the development of a communication plan.
- Support the development of job aids and other communication materials for exclusive breastfeeding, complementary weaning foods, vitamin A, and other child health interventions.
- Counseling cards on malaria CTA's for the community health worker in Keneya Ciwara zones will be developed to add to their kits.
- Presentation of the qualitative study on Family Planning
- Message Guide for Health will be disseminated.

6 Additional activities

- The ATN technical team participated in the partners' workshop for activity programming for 2006-2007 with all USAID partners and MOH services at the Mandé Hotel.
- ATN technical staff participated in the first Child Survival days as organized by CREDOS in November 2006. This meeting was a technical forum for discussion of topics on various aspects of child survival.
- The ATN team participated in two USAID audits: one on the use of child survival funds carried out by the GAO and another on compliance with the

Tiaht amendment which was carried out by the Regional Inspector General's office.

- The President and CEO of Abt, Mr. Wendell Knox, visited ATN at the end of October. The Minister of Health and other key officials were visited along with several site visits to rural and urban health centers.
- The ATN team participated in the Keneya Ciwara field coordinator meetings and Ciwara d'Or accreditation ceremonies.



Child Survival Expected Results: Status

Results	Data source	Target (2007)	Status '07 (first semester)	Comments
Impact Results				
% of children 6-59 months receiving one dose of vitamin A in the past six months	MOH / EDS (national) or latest SIAN data	80%	90%	SIAN of December 2006
Process Results : Child Survival				
A national training of trainers for the SIAN guide and for deworming is organized	DNS/ Nutrition Division	Workshop for training of trainers is held	1	25 trainers trained
National directives for vitamin A supplementation are disseminated	DNS/ Nutrition Division	A national workshop is organized		
PNP for nutrition is finalized	DNS/ Nutrition Division	PNP documents are available		Underway for finalization
cMYP for vaccination is developed	DNS / Immunization Section	1 plan document is available	1	
A national workshop for advocacy of immunization of women of reproductive age for traditional and religious leaders is organized	DNS / Immunization Section, CNIECS	1 workshop is organized 1 final report is available		
Policy for case management for children under five (EPI with MII, ACTs) is defined	DNS/ PNLP	1 policy document is available		
Policy for distribution of MII is available	DNS/ PNLP	1 policy document is disseminated	1 document in draft (Accelerated Plan)	The policy document for MII's exists. This result is replaced by the Accelerated Plan for malaria activities

Results	Data source	Target (2007)	Status '07 (first semester)	Comments
Module for training of traditional communicators is developed	CNIECS ATN DNS/Divisions	Workshop organized and module available		
Radio series for high impact services is broadcast and follow up is organized	CNIECS ATN DNS/Divisions	Dissemination and follow up report produced		The possibility of follow up of the Heremakono broadcasts by Keneya Ciwara is being discussed
Job aids for service providers addressing exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding, supplementation with vitamin A are produced	CNIECS ATN DNS/DN HKI	Job aids are available to the Nutrition Division		Job aids will be produced after the PNP Nutrition is validated
National communication strategy for nutrition developed	CNIECS ATN DNS/DN	Situational analysis completed ; workshop organized to validate plan ; plan available		
Vitamin A information boards are produced	ATN WE CNIECS	Vitamin A information boards are provided to World Education	1500 Information boards produced and delivered to WE	

Maternal Health and Family Planning Expected Results: Status

Results	Data source	Target (2007)	Status (first semester)	Comments
Maternal Health and Family Planning: Process results				
PNP job aids are finalized	DSR/ATN/ PKC	PNP job aids are finalized	In progress	Pretest in Bougouni planned for April
The feasibility study for the introduction of Active Management of Third Stage Labor (AMTSL) by matrons is conducted	DSR/ATN/ PKC/ Capacity project- POPPHI	The trained matrons apply correctly the AMTSL in the pilot circles of Sikasso, Gao, Koulikoro	In progress	The regular follow-up of the matrons is done The preliminary report of the study is available for advocacy with DNS
The implementation of the strategy providing free cesarean sections is evaluated	DSR/ATN/ PKC	The evaluation report is available	In progress	The recommendations from the evaluation are implemented
The tools designed to monitor the implementation of the strategy providing free cesarean sections are revised	DSR/ATN/ PKC	The revised tools are available	Modified A report on the status of the implementation of the strategy is completed	The DSR has tools already developed in use and has asked ATN instead, a report on the status of the implementation of the free cesarean section strategy using preliminary reports from supervisions conducted in the regions based on those tools
The supervisions of	DSR/ATN		Done	The region of

Results	Data source	Target (2007)	Status (first semester)	Comments
service providers trained in Focused Antenatal Care are conducted		Supervision conducted in all regions		Segou must train its providers
The national trainers are trained in AMTSL/Prevention of Post-Partum Hemorrhage	DSR/ATN/ PKC	20 national trainers are trained	Done	Those trainers have also trained the midwives in the regions
The national trainers are trained in Focused Antenatal Care	DSR/ATN	20 national trainers are trained	Postponed till April	
Secondary analysis based on the findings of DHS 2006 on unmet needs for family planning is completed	CPS/ATN	Report based on the analysis is available	In progress	The report is disseminated and its recommendations are implemented
The national Family Planning campaign for 2007 is launched	DSR/ATN	The campaign is launched and a report is available	Done	Coordination with all partners
Activities to promote IUD are coordinated	DSR/PSI/ATN	Coordination meetings are held	Done	ATN has contributed to the development of messages on IUD